its requirement on the AJT in January 1999 and considered most contenders that were available worldwide for the AJT.

(d) and (e) CAG reports have mainly been related to planning inadequacies and delays in procurement and implementation of the projects. No violation of the basic rules of procurement have been reported. The Government continuously endeavours to effect improvements in the structures, processes and procedures related to Procurement. The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted on 17th April 2000 by the Government has recommended a series of measures, including the creation of a separate and dedicated institutional structure i.e. the Defence Procurement Board, to undertake the entire gamut of procurement related functions in a more professional, coordinated and cost effective manner. The recommendations of the GoM have been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001. After examination and acceptance of the Report by the Government, action as required will be taken expeditiously.

Obsolescent IAF's Combatant Fleet

4431. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI
P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made in a report apprearing in the recent issue of the 'Indian Defence Review' that 40 percent of IAF's combatant fleet is obsolescent; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review and remove weaknesses of the IAF's combating capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Air Force has formulated a modernization plan to enhance its combat aircraft strength.